

Claims

1. An image pickup device comprising an image pickup element; a variable power lens arranged on the same optical axis as said image pickup element and changing image pickup magnification; a magnification converting lens arranged so as to be inserted and detached on said optical axis and converting the image pickup magnification into a predetermined multiple; a signal processing circuit for outputting a signal from said image pickup element as a picture image signal; an image recording section for recording an image; a control section for performing control for inserting and detaching said magnification converting lens on said optical axis; wherein said signal processing circuit outputs the image recorded to said image recording section when said magnification converting lens is inserted onto said optical axis.
2. The image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein said image recording section records the picture image signal from said signal processing circuit as an image.
3. The image pickup device according to claim 2, wherein said signal processing circuit electronically enlarges and outputs the image recorded to said image recording section.
4. The image pickup device according to claim 3,

wherein said signal processing circuit stepwise enlarges and outputs the image recorded to said image recording section.

5. The image pickup device according to claim 3, comprising a variable power lens magnification sensor for detecting the image pickup magnification of said variable power lens, and wherein said signal processing circuit stepwise enlarges and outputs the image recorded to said image recording section according to the ratio of a change of the image pickup magnification of said variable power lens detected by said variable power lens magnification sensor.

6. The image pickup device according to claim 3, wherein said signal processing circuit stepwise enlarges the image recorded to said image recording section according to a zoom operation.

7. The image pickup device according to claim 5, wherein said control section changes the image pickup magnification of said variable power lens when said signal processing circuit stepwise enlarges and outputs said image.

8. The image pickup device according to claim 6, wherein said control section changes the image pickup magnification of said variable power lens when said signal processing circuit stepwise enlarges and outputs said

image.

9. The image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein, when the image from said image recording section is switched to the picture image from said image pickup element, said signal processing circuit synthesizes and processes images from said image recording section and from said image pickup element, and said signal processing circuit outputs this synthesized and processed picture image to a monitor.

10. An image pickup method comprising a step for inserting and mounting a magnification converting lens for converting image pickup magnification into a predetermined multiple on the optical axis of an image pickup element and a variable power lens; a step for recording a picture image signal from a signal processing circuit to an image recording section as an image; and a step for switching a picture image from said image pickup element to the image recorded to said image recording section and outputting the switched image; wherein said switched image is outputted when said magnification converting lens is inserted onto said optical axis.